REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on June 5, 2002 for the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-4 are pending in this application.

Applicants first note that the Abstract has been amended herein to narrow the local temperature range for drying the resin solution after it is coated on the cold-rolled steel sheet. Specifically, the temperature range has been changed from "140 to 250 °C" to "160 to 250 °C." This change finds support in the specification at page 5, line 8. Thus, Applicants submit that no new matter is presented by this amendment to the Abstract.

Additionally, Applicants have amended two notations on Figure 1 with this submission. Specifically, the coating thickness of the phenoxy resin layer shown in Figure 1 has been changed from "2-5 μm" to "2-10 μm", and this change is supported by the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 1-5. Likewise, the thickness of the chromate film originally noted as "50 mg/m^2" on Figure 1 has been changed to "100 mg/m^2", which also finds support in the specification at page 5, lines 1-5. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented by these amendments to Figure 1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), the proposed changes to Figure 1 are shown in red on a copy of Figure 1 that is enclosed herewith. Upon approval by the Examiner, a new drawing in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 including these changes will be filed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner first noted that a WIPO-stamped copy

of Korean Application Serial No. KR 1999/50110, filed on November 12, 1999, was received by the Patent Office, even though it has not been referred to in the oath or declaration or in an application data sheet for the present application. Applicants first respectfully note that this Korean application is the priority document for International Application Serial No. PCT/KR00/01297, filed on November 13, 2000, of which the present U.S. application is a national stage application. This Korean application is cited on the front page of the specification as filed under the heading "Priority Data" and is cited in the section marked "Priority claim of earlier national application" on page 3 of the PCT Request that was filed along with the present U.S. national stage application. However, the Examiner correctly notes that this Korean application was not listed on the Combined Declaration/Power of Attorney document filed for this U.S. national stage application, nor was the Korean application referred to in the Claim for Priority filed on August 15, 2001 for this case.

To correct this error, Applicants enclose herewith a Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119, which contains a claim for priority to Korean Patent Application Serial No. KR 1999/50110, which was filed on November 12, 1999. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(c), Applicants also enclose herewith a Petition, indicating that the claim for priority was unintentionally delayed, as well as the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(t). Applicants respectfully submit that this claim for priority now suffices to establish that the present national stage application claims priority back to Korean Application Serial No. KR 1999/50110. Pursuant to MPEP § 1893.03(c), the Patent Office's receipt of the

WIPO-stamped copy of the Korean priority application is acceptable to establish that Applicants have filed a certified copy of the priority document.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Publication Number WO 00/32843 to Lee et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,987,127 to Dickie et al. The Examiner specifically stated that Lee et al. disclose a surface-treated steel sheet for fuel tanks wherein the steel sheet is cold-rolled and has a zinc or zinc-based alloy plating layer formed on the steel sheet and a chromate film coated on the zinc or zinc-based plating layer, which is then coated with a resin coating layer. The Examiner acknowledges that Lee et al. do not specifically teach that the resin coating layer contains 0.5 to 3.0 phr of phosphoric ester. However, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to add 0.5 to 1.0 phr of a phosphoric acid ester to the composition disclosed by Lee et al. in view of the teachings of Dickie et al. regarding the addition of esters of phosphoric acid to a coating composition to improve the adhesion between the coating and a metal substrate.

Applicants respectfully submit that because of the priority claim (submitted herewith) to Korean Application Serial No. KR 1999/50110, filed on November 12, 1999, the disclosure of Lee et al. no longer serves as a prior art reference with respect to the present application. International Application Serial No. PCT/KR99/00722, filed by Lee et al. on November 30, 1999, was not published until June 8, 2000, which is later than the November 12, 1999 priority date for the present

application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the priority claim made with this submission alleviates the necessity of discussing the Lee et al. disclosure on its merits.

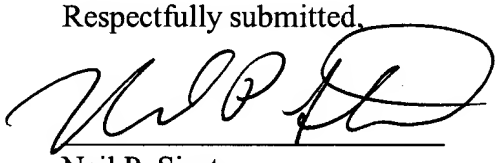
With regard to the disclosure of Dickie et al., Applicants respectfully submit that Dickie et al. differs significantly from the disclosure of the present invention. Specifically, an object of Dickie et al. involves the addition of corrosion resistance and abrasion resistance to metal surfaces used for trim or brightwork on the exterior of an automobile. (*See* column 1, lines 14-26.) A main component of the coating composition disclosed by Dickie et al. is a solvent-soluble vinyl polymer. (*See* column 1, lines 49-67.)

In contrast, a stated objective of the present invention is adding cosmetic corrosion resistance and fuel corrosion resistance to the fuel tank of an automobile (*see* specification, page 4, lines 11-18), and a main component of the coating composition used in the present invention is a water-soluble phenoxy resin (*see* specification, page 3, lines 11-12). In light of the differences between the claims of the present application and the disclosure of Dickie et al. as well as the removal of Lee et al. as a reference, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4 of the present application are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over International Publication No. WO 00/32843 to Lee et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,987,127 to Dickie et al.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The Abstract as originally filed has been replaced with the Abstract enclosed herewith on a separate sheet and has been amended as follows:

The present invention relates to a resin-coated steel sheet for fuel tanks of an automobile and a resin solution used for the same. The resin solution of the present invention comprises (a) a main solution of water soluble phenoxy resin having a number average molecular weight of 25,000 to 50,000, (b) 2 to 15 phr of melamine resin on the basis of the main solution, (c) 10 to 20 phr of colloidal silica on the basis of the main solution, and (d) water soluble etylene-acryl resin containing 50-80% of ethylene and 50-20% of acryl resin and having a molecular weight of 20,000 to 50,000, in an amount of 5 to 15 phr on the basis of the main solution; and/or 0.5 to 3.0 phr of phosphoric ester on the basis of the main solution. The resin solution is coated on a cold-rolled steel sheet plated with zinc or zinc alloy over which a chromate layer films, and then dried at a local temperature of [140] 160 to 250 °C to prepare a resin-coated steel sheet for fuel tanks of an automobile.

In the Drawings:

Figure 1 has been amended as shown in red on the copy of Figure 1 enclosed herewith.